

Testimony to Committee in Lansing  
June 13, 2007

Michael E. Williams-President of AACFA  
President/CEO Orchards  
Children's Services

It is indeed an honor and a pleasure that I have an opportunity to speak to you today. My comments will be focused on but not limited to the service delivery of Private not for profits organizations. My name is Michael E. Williams and I am the President/CEO of Orchards Children's Services and we provide child welfare services to children and families in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and most recently Washtenaw Counties. I also am here as the President of AACFA-Association of Accredited Child and Families Agencies. This agency represents organizations whose history of providing services both child welfare and juvenile justice for more than 100 years to 20 years.

In keeping with my mission to share with you the array of service that privates throughout the state perform, I will focus on these organizations but know that there are many who do great work. Over the last couple of months, there have been many questions, regarding what do we get when we contract with privates agencies and what makes them any better from a service delivery than state ran facilities. Well, there is no doubt that both provide excellent services but I think the most paramount difference is the fact that the mission and existence of these (Private agencies) is to provide services. Our focus and entire purpose for existence is to enhance and create programming that enhance success for our children.

Each agency that I represent is Nationally Accredited As you may know the state is not accredited by any national standard. I say this not to lesson the states role but to clarify what are some of the differences in what and how we practice our models. Each agency must pay for this accreditation and it is a very intense process. It helps us to stay in best practice models and we are compared to a national standard with people from other states coming to challenge and indeed make sure that we are supplying our children and families with the best quality of care. This is one distinction that I feel is major as we move toward reforming this system.

I must say that a lot of time has been spent to belittle the public sector and I do not have those sentiments. There clearly is a place and a tremendous need for the state to be involved and protect the children and revenue of this state. During these difficult times it is easy to get lost in personality or style but that is not my purpose. In fact I think as it relates to the Department of Human Services there have been gains made over the last couple of years. We think however that these gains could be aided by the enhancements to the role clarification that SB232 suggest. In this there is a clarifying role as it relates to oversight, licensing and focus on federal funding. I have seen great strides also in this state as it relates to the over-representation of minorities in the system. Under Marianne Udow, Director tremendous work has been and is being addressed that has been swept under the carpet for years. I will not go into more detail at this time as that work is in progress and under the leadership of Carol Goss – Skillman Foundation and Marianne Udow, Director, I feel confident that we will have some best practice models in the very

near future. What made this a great process is that we have used the expertise that we all bring to the table. We have utilized the skills of outside experts to address and challenge us in developing better outcomes for our families. The model has public and private input and calls for all of us to change if we are going to be effective.

In these days of financial challenges unlike this state has ever faced we must all take a breath and ask what we can do to help. It is with this idea and thought in mind that we are participants in this process. We deliver services and that is our main reason for existing. A lot of people use the term that we service the most vulnerable population and that is our children. I would also like to say that we service our greatest blessing and resource and that too are children. All children today are at risk and we must do what is in the best interest of all to move forward. We service children from the inner city and suburbs and I can tell you that needs are great for both. That is why each of our agencies has created services for our communities in spite of the lack of funding opportunities for our children. In your packets you have a few of the things done by privates that extend themselves far beyond contractual language and obligation. This is done I believe because we are in the communities we serve. Our boards are making us not only accountable for meeting contractual obligations but saying we must improve the quality of life for all in the community. This oversight comes with the responsibility of raising money to meet contract responsibilities as rates fall short of the cost but also to raise awareness and dollars to give children life long memories and experiences to build them into good community citizens.

Let us not be confused. There is much to do and we must do it together. Tough decisions are needed in tough times but they must be decisions that fix problems and not just react to them.

Here are some points of clarity:

- Ancillary programming
- Good service
- Enhanced accountability
- Ability to react and change when needs change
- Clarification of roles

Challenges:

- People who would have to be laid off
- Not making children Republicans or Democratic issues
- Acceptance of direction given

**From :** John Schmidt <[schmidt@provide.net](mailto:schmidt@provide.net)> [ + ] **Date :** Tue, 12 Jun 2007 17:24:46 -0400  
**To :** Denise Baldwin <[dbaldwin@orchards.org](mailto:dbaldwin@orchards.org)> [ + ]  
**Subject :** re: Information needed

Hi Denise,

MCHS has residential treatment, foster care and adoption programs on campus. We also operate reading/mentoring programs in four areas of the state for children grades 2-3. These are cooperative ventures with United Methodist Churches (volunteers), public schools and MCHS. MCHS provides the funding for staff, etc. These programs are afterschool in the schools themselves.

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# PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

The Children's Center has its own one-stop continuum of care services for children and families. We offer the largest number of specialized programs for at risk youth of any child and family agency in Michigan. All of our programs are strength based and family focus. We also utilize person centered planning in all of our treatment planning. We accept most commercial insurances.

*Our Mission: To help children and families shape their own futures*

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE TREATMENT SERVICES

Provides a continuum of services to children who have behavioral and emotional problems. Youths treated are also experiencing problems such as depression, suicidal and withdrawal behaviors. Specialized skills and treatment are also available for the treatment of the victims of sexual abuse and children who have witnessed homicide.

- ♦ **Family Bereavement:** Provides grief counseling for children and parents who have experienced a death in the family, families whose sons or daughters have been murdered, as well as children who are witnesses to homicides and other violent crimes. Provides court support services if needed.
- ♦ **Residential Case Management:** We place and monitor children who require specialized residential treatment services in selected facilities throughout the Detroit area.
- ♦ **Hospital Liaison:** Provides monitoring and discharge planning for children in acute care and state hospitals.
- ♦ **General Outpatient:** Provides treatment for children ages 5-18, who are experiencing mental health issues at home, school or in the community.
- ♦ **Case Management:** Provides support and coordination for community referrals and services.
- ♦ **Family Services:** Provides treatment to help heal the trauma of sexual abuse victimization of children.
- ♦ **School Based Services:** Provides community mental health services to students in several Detroit Public Schools.
- ♦ **Psychiatric Services:** Offers psychiatric evaluations and if needed, on-going medication management and monitoring.



## EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Provides preventive services to infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their parents designed to address emotional and environmental problems. Provides families with support and resources to address identified needs.

- ♦ **Incarcerated Pregnant & Parenting Women's Program:** Promotes the health of incarcerated women who are pregnant and assists with planning for the placement of the infant with family members. Provides counseling, education, and advocacy services. Assists those women who are released to re-enter society and develop plans for the care-taking of their children, employment and housing needs.
- ♦ **Parent and Child Empowerment (PACE):** Provides assessment and treatment services to children ages 3-6 who are experiencing emotional and behavioral problems at home, school or in the community. Services are strength based and family focused.
- ♦ **Mentally Emotionally Impaired Program (MEI) :** A comprehensive out-patient treatment program servicing consumers between the ages of 2 through their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. MEI services consumers that have obtained a full scale I.Q. between 35-70 and/or have been diagnosed with a Pervasive Developmental Disorder such as: Autism, as well as, a DSM-IV Diagnosis such as: Psychotic Disorders, Mood Disorders, and/or an Anxiety Disorder. MEI provides individual & family therapy, supports coordination services and psychiatric services. Modalities include Play & Art therapies, skill building assistance, and activities of daily living skills.
- ♦ **Special Beginnings (Infant Mental Health):** Provides intensive, home-based infant mental health services for high-risk infants (from birth to three) and their parents. This includes services for problems of premature birth, failure to thrive, developmental delays, feeding and/or sleeping concerns, and drug exposure. Clinicians provide parent-infant psychotherapy, emotional support, advocacy, developmental guidance, linking and coordination of services.
- ♦ **Head Start Observations/Consultations:** Provides class room mental health observations and consultations for children in Detroit Public School's Head Start programs.

**TO OBTAIN SERVICES, CALL THE ACCESS CENTER AT 313-262-1212**

Monday through Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

## CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

*Provides temporary out-of-home placement and treatment for abused or neglected children that have been removed from the home; post adoption treatment and young adult self-sufficiency preparation and placement. This also includes recruitment and licensing for foster, adoptive and independent living placements and assessments and mental health services for at-risk youth that are in the juvenile delinquent system.*

- ♦ **Foster Care:** Provides foster care placement to children in need of temporary out-of-home placement due to abuse or neglect allegations. We utilize the Family-to-Family philosophy in providing services.
- ♦ **Adoption:** Evaluates children, screens potential adoptive parents, completes adoptions and child assessments/studies for children in the foster care system.
- ♦ **Post-Adoption Services:** Provides clinical assessments and interventions for children and families that have been adopted. The children usually are experiencing emotional and behavioral problems.
- ♦ **Young Adult Self-Sufficiency Program: (YASS)** Provides services to youth 14 - 22 years of age residing in Wayne County that are in need of preparation for adulthood. Referrals are received directly from the Department of Human Services (DHS), private agencies, and mental health providers. The Cycle of Support - Personal Centered Plan is utilized in assisting each youth in the development of his/her "Independent Living Plan". Each young adult is provided with an assessment to determine his/her strengths and identify areas that need improvement and assists with placement or living arrangements. A detailed report is developed and shared with the youth and the referring staff. An array of services are offered for youth emancipating out of child welfare and those seeking independence in the mental health system.
- ♦ **Juvenile Justice:** Provides mental health assessments and treatment services for youth 5 - 17 years old that are in the juvenile justice system. They may have been experiencing emotional or behavioral issues within the home, school or community.

## AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

*Provides after school enrichment, prevention education, socialization skill building, self-esteem building and treatment interventions.*

- ♦ **Chemical Dependency Education and Awareness Program:** Provides substance abuse prevention education on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to youth, ages 9 - 17 years of age in the city of Detroit. Utilizes group presentations, information dissemination, client substance abuse assessment and referral coordination and collaboration with community providers in order to address the goal of decreasing the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drug in youth.
- ♦ **21st Century Community Learning Centers:** Provides educational assistance to enhance and complement regular school-day instruction. An after school program that provides enrichment, academic improvement and youth development for the students in the Detroit Public Schools that have been identified with low MEAP scores.
- ♦ **Teenage Parent Program:** A comprehensive service including home-based treatment and case management services. Intensive group services including childcare, parenting & pregnancy education, treatment, child development and support in education, career development and peer support.
- ♦ **Tutoring:** Provides after-school one-to-one tutoring services to children who need academic help and support.
- ♦ **Tau Beta Center for Discovery:** Provides enrichment, educational, recreational and art and crafts programming for clients during the after school hours. Programming teaches useful skills, develops talents and allows youth to have positive interaction with adults (teachers and professionals) who assist with increasing socialization skills.

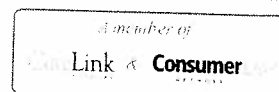


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ORCHARDS CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
Program Comparison

<b>Programs as of September 30, 2005</b>	<b>Now</b>
<p><b><u>Community Programs</u></b></p> <p>Baseball</p>	<p><b><u>Community Programs</u></b></p> <p>Baseball Learn2Learn Job Development</p>
<p><b><u>Ancillary Services</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Ancillary Services</u></b></p> <p>Camps Upward Bound Life Skills College Preparation Group Youth Group Adopt-a-Family Job Development</p>
<p><b><u>Family Preservation</u></b></p> <p>Families First Family Together Building Solutions Wraparound Probate Guardianship Juvenile Justice Diversion Reintegration Alternatives</p>	<p><b><u>Family Preservation</u></b></p> <p>Families First Families Together Building Solutions Wraparound Probate Guardianship Juvenile Justice Diversion Reintegration Alternatives Family Group Decision Making Kinship Support Services Post Adoption Removal Prevention</p>
<p><b><u>Placement Services</u></b></p> <p>Kinship Care Adoption Foster Care</p>	<p><b><u>Placement Services</u></b></p> <p>Kinship Care Adoption Foster Care</p>

Orchards Children's Services...

protecting kids and growing healthy families.

Orchards Children's Services protects children from abuse and neglect by providing family preservation programs, foster care and adoption in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne Counties. With over 120 qualified and well-trained employees, we work with approximately 600 families at a time, helping over 3,000 children and families a year. Since Orchards creation in 1962, Orchards Children's Services has dramatically improved and molded the landscape of foster care and adoption policy in the state of Michigan. Orchards is recognized as the premier foster care and adoption agency, and for their leadership in policymaking. Now, more than 45 years later, Orchards continues to be a leader in the child welfare community and provides extensive services to children and families in need.

Our services reach beyond the traditional pieces of child welfare because we believe in taking a preventative approach. It is important to Orchards that children gain experiences that encourage them to grow into successful adults. This makes Orchards unique because as a child welfare agency we not only meet the basic needs of our children, such as their food, shelter, clothing and safety, we strive to make our children healthier for the future. We give kids opportunities to challenge themselves and become stronger through our education, art, recreation and even camping programs. Orchards approach creates healthier families and communities. It is our mission to continue strengthening the community through our quality services to children and families.

## **Program Descriptions**

**Foster Care (State Wide)** –Children that are abused and neglected are removed by protective services and placed in Orchards Children's Services foster homes. The goal is to offer the biological parents services so that they can convince the court to return their children. When issues that lead to the removal of children from their biological homes are not corrected, the legal rights of families are terminated.

**Adoption (State Wide)** – When parental rights have been terminated, the Orchards seeks to permanently place these children with loving families in stable and nurturing adoptive homes.

**Kinship Care (State Wide)**– Children are only reunited with their families once the conditions that brought them into foster care have been resolved. Orchards continues to provide services to these children during the readjustment period. When families are not quite ready for their children to return home, often a relative of the family will agree to have the children live with them as the parent completes their treatment plan. Orchards also monitors children in these relative placements.

**Family Preservation Services** – Orchards provides these services to more than 1000 families each year. These services are designed to keep families together so their children can remain in their homes. Many of these programs are similar in nature but have different time frames. The goals of all of the following preservation programs are similar in that they are designed to maintain the child in their biological home.

**Families First (Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb)**–Works to prevent children from entering foster care by providing counseling and many other services to at-risk families. The service lasts for four weeks and each worker must make face to face contact with the parents for 10 hours per week. Each worker services only two families at a time.

**Families Together Building Solutions (Oakland and Macomb)** – similar to Families First but has masters level staff working with more intact families for 3 months. Each worker services 8 families seeing them 3 hours per week.

**Probate Guardianship (Wayne)** – Assess/service guardians, interested family members for Wayne County Probate Court and Third Circuit Court

**Juvenile Justice Diversion Reintegration Alternatives (Macomb)**– JJDRA is a required home-based service designed to support adjudicated delinquents as they transition back into the community. Staff provide intensive family treatment, face-to-face mentor/surveillance contacts and use a level system to reinforce treatment goals. The youth must reside at Camp Nakomis or Clarence Fisher Academy at the time of referral. Each worker services 12 families at a time and the program services 18 families annually.



**Wrap-around Services (Macomb)** –creatively tailors services from the community to meet the needs of troubled children so they can avoid hospitalization. This program uses many mental health resources.

**Family Group Decision Making (Wayne)**-is designed to link families whose children have experienced abuse and/or neglect and trained professionals in a process that empowers families to make and carry out plans to assure the protection of their children with the support of community resources. The program centers around a Family Group Conference, where immediate and extended Family, friends and selected professionals create a detailed plan which addresses all safety concerns, both in terms of current risk and protection from future harm.

**Kinship Support Services (Wayne)**-Provides case management services, educational and support groups and respite to relatives in Wayne County that are caring for kinship family members.

**Post Adoption Services (Wayne)** – Provide crisis intervention services to adoptive families in Wayne County that have previously adopted children in the foster care system.

**Removal Prevention Early Return Services (Washtenaw)**-works to prevent children from entering foster by providing parenting skills training, educational support, nutritional information. This program also assists biological parents complete their treatment plans so their children can be returned from foster care.

#### **Community Programs**

Learn2Learn

Job Development

#### **Ancillary Services**

Overnight Camps

Upward Bound

Life Skills

College Preparation Group

**From :** [Tom Standish](#)  
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[+]

**Date :** Wed, 13 Jun 2007 06:42:59 -0400

**To :** [Denise Baldwin](#) <[dbaldwin@orchards.org](mailto:dbaldwin@orchards.org)> [+]

**Subject :** RE: Information needed

Good morning

The Children's Home of Detroit is a not for profit agency which provides residentially supported mental health and behavioral health treatment for children, adolescents and their families at two sites. Our Warren campus is a staff and facility secure program which provides treatment for youth presenting with severe, acute mental health and behavioral issues of assaultive, aggressive and suicidal symptoms. The Campus at Grosse Point Woods provides mental health treatment for children and youth who present with similar issues of severe emotional disturbance but with less acuity and less aggressive and assaultive behaviors.

The Children's Home has recently begun our outpatient treatment service program and will be implementing a comprehensive multi-faceted assessment service in July. We provide short term respite services for children and families who live at home, in foster care or in kinship homes.

We are expanding our continuum of services through program development and through collaborative programs with other agencies dedicated to serving the children and families in need.

# Learn-2-Learn

study skills program

Orchards  
Children's  
Services



Orchards Children's Services has been a beacon of hope for children and families for over 45 years. Orchards seeks to protect and nurture children and youth by providing shelter, sustenance, life- and educational skills and opportunities. Our programs and services touch children from birth to young adulthood, and we remain committed to them every step of the way. We believe in engaging individuals in planning for their own success, and offer services and support in their homes and communities. By working in partnership with parents, relatives, foster parents and children where they live, we empower them to achieve stability and long term self-sufficiency.

For more information about our comprehensive services, visit us at:

**[www.orchards.org](http://www.orchards.org)**

Orchards  
Children's  
Services

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248 258 0440

**Wayne County**  
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313 340 0497

**Macomb County**  
42140 Van Dyke Ave.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
586 997 3886

*Always for  
Children and Families*

# Learn-2-Learn

## Learn-2-Learn Goals:

- Increase Interest in School and Learning
- Improve Confidence and Self Esteem
- Improve Academic Performance



## The Idea

Orchards' Learn-2-Learn program is designed to develop skills that are essential to a young person's success in school and ultimately in their chosen career. Learn-2-Learn engages kids in exploring their abilities, improving their skills and understanding their learning preferences. It takes them on a path of discovery where they learn to trust themselves, gain confidence and build an appreciation for learning.

## The Approach

The program provides fun activities that show kids how to improve their academic performance through better organization and time management skills. Learn-2-Learn offers a holistic view of learning and also touches on aspects of behavior—including nutrition, sleep, exercise and screen time—that indirectly influence students' ability to achieve success in their studies. Throughout the process, students have opportunities to interact with peers, talk about their experiences, recognize and value their unique learning style, and discover their career preferences.

## The 10-Session Curriculum

- 1 Introduction
- 2 A safe place to learn
- 3 Getting organized
- 4 Goal setting & study planning
- 5 Time management
- 6 Tips, skills and strategy
- 7 Increasing your resources
- 8 Listening skills
- 9 Learning and the environment
- 10 Creating support systems

## Learn-2-Learn Objectives:

- Improve Study Habits and Skills
- Improve Time Management
- Improve Communication Skills
- Improve Organization

Learn-2-Learn is offered in partnership with local schools and administered by qualified teaching professionals. Students are supplied with materials relevant to the program and to their future academic careers.

Students participating in the program are required to sign a participation contract, co-signed by their parents, committing to minimum attendance and participation expectations. Group performance is monitored to assess program effectiveness. There is no charge for the 10-session program.

**Call Orchards today to sign up for Learn-2-Learn: 248 593 2115.**

